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Dear Jim,

Not long ago you told me I should read Fonzi's book, which I'd been ignoring, along with many others I regard as time-wasters. I asked you why and you gave me no real answer, just indicating that it had information in it that I should know. When you said that after I'd indicated my opinion of him and his work I assumed that you saw something really worthwhile in it. So, I got it and read it, not skipping until toward the end. Having finished it, I'm not all that sorry and I'm not complaining about your referring me to a book that is very bad in almost all ways. I've done some annotating on it.

The one way in which it is not as bad as it could be tells me nothing new, that the HSCA was terrible. ~~However,~~ It might be of some use to the people for them to know that. Fonzi fell far short and he is dope enough not to perceive what was happening at the hearings, which were aimed at debunking all the criticism except mine. Blakey never mentioned me in any of his narrations.

Those incompetents never did look into the assassination itself and Fonzi, for all his demands, from his own account made no such recommendation of demand. Not even after it was all over, in his book. The reason is simple: he did not believe that was the way to investigate the assassination. Like all you young fogies, he actually believed he had solved it with his Veciana diversion and irrelevancy.

All of you, too, have childish notions about intelligence agencies, like coming from novels. What was from the first obvious in the Veciana story is so gross a violation of what I think is called tradecraft that no intelligence agent of any kind would permit it, leave along arrange it. He would never bring two of his people together, least of all in daylight and in a place where many people could see it. Philips would never have done that or anything like it.

Moreover, Fonzi et al merely presumed that Veciana worked for the CIA. There is no proof of that and no indication any real effort was made to learn.

Well, he didn't. I'm surprised that Moch did not remember that because I told him and he reminded me of it. I cannot find what I believe was my first record of it but my file does hold a copy of a letter I believe was to a Post reporter referring to the actuality. I'll enclose it. I'll explain how I learned.

Lil and I had a dear friend, Ernie Berger, who in ~~that~~ those days had the only bookstore in Frederick. Like me, Ernie was a transplanted Philadelphian, a ~~jazz~~ jazz (taditional) buff like me and unlike me, an excellent pianist. I think he'd first come here with a band during the Great Depression. He stayed, married a local woman who died young, remarried, and when one of his two sons by the first marriage was working on a thesis, doctoral, at Madison, Ernie asked me if I could help that son, Henry.

First I suggested to Henry that he reformulate his topic. It was on the United States union movement and foreign policy, I've forgotten the exact formulation. I suggested the labor movement as part of US foreign policy. He like that. I was able to open some doors in Washington to him. One as at the AFL-CIO, right up at the top. As a result Henry had access to all he wanted from the records of their International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. It was started in opposition to an international grouping in Europe was was to the left of center, for the ICFTU ~~Irving~~ Brown handled Europe and Africa. (Aside: once when I was trying to get fertile eggs of a famous French chicken, ~~Ex~~ poulet de Bresse, Brown was going to send them in the diplomatic pouch!) Serafino Romualdi handled the western hemisphere. Romualdi and I had met socially several times, at the home of our friends who were his friends.

The ICFTU worked with the CIA, very closely, but was not part of it. Forexample, they led the overthrow of the freely elected Guyana government of Cheddi Jagan. I think they were less than happy in the end because their Forbes Burnham turned the Jagan way on them last I remember.

Veciana worked for the ICFTU. Not the CIA itself as of the only knowledge I have. I learned that much earlier than the enclosed record of 1970. Henry Berger had his doctorate and was teaching at Vermont, Burlington, the early winter of 1966 when he had me got there to speak. He then switched to Washington, St. Louis where as of my last knowledge he still was. He worked in the Romualdi Files in the early 1960s.

As you can see, my typing was not always this terrible! I then had my old upright and could face it when typing.

I'll ask Hoch if he can retrieve the short memo I wrote him some years before this one.

I'm not going to take the time for all the many criticisms I can make of Fonzi's foolishness, lies treating third-hand hearsay and the given word in his writing, over and over again. I never sought to have anything to do with him after he and that political dod ~~Salandria~~ Salandria decided that Conally could not have been hit before Z frame 292 and Salandria insisted on dominating the first 3 1/2 hours of a 4 hour talk show I had, with that stupidity. (Vince used to keep Garrison enthralled holding forth on how the JFK assassination is like Trotsky's. It was because he could do that that I had him with me so I could break up the horror Garrison planned to commemorate the fifth anniversary, one part of which would have been to charge Robert Lee Perrin as a Grassy knoll assassin- one of the shooters when Perrin had killed himself the year before.) It worked but you wont see this In Garrison's book! It has poor Boxley the villain.)

There is one thing that Fonzi was too dopey, too grossly ignorant, too deeply mired in his Veciana nonsense to be able to understand its importance- IF TRUE. I enclose his page 360: "Ted) Shackley said if he had known what (JF) Kennedy meant by 'hard intelligence' he would have gotten him a U-2 photograph (of the missiles) much earlier."

I know from another source this he could have done, but the official story is that